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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 18 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 15 October 2014, regarding the so-called draft treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on alliance and integration (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 18 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the so-called draft treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on alliance and integration

[15 October 2014]

On 13 October 2014, a draft treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on alliance and integration was published on the websites of Abkhaz and other news agencies. According to the information available in this regard, the document was drafted by the Russian Government and was then submitted to the authorities in control of the Russian-occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia for their consideration.

Unfortunately, this information and the text of the so-called draft treaty constitute further proof of the fact that the Russian Government continues to grossly violate fundamental principles of international law and to completely ignore the commitments it has undertaken.

Despite the complexity of the many problems relating to the de-occupation of Georgia and the restoration of our territorial integrity, two years ago the Government of Georgia offered Russia a new format for bilateral dialogue aimed at building mutual confidence. The realization of this policy led to positive results in the trade, economic and humanitarian fields. This process has so far also played a positive role in strengthening stability and security in the region.

It must be emphasized that the signing and implementation of the so-called treaty will pose a serious threat to the process of normalization of Georgia-Russia relations and will considerably undermine the Geneva international discussions, which are of particular importance.

It is unacceptable that the preamble of the so-called draft treaty claims to speak on behalf of the "two countries' peoples", as it is a well-recognized fact that the majority native population of the Russian-occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia were forcibly expelled from their homes, including as a result of ethnic cleansing. Unfortunately, the implementation of the so-called draft treaty would also seriously endanger the identity of the remaining inhabitants in the occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia.

We hope that the Russian Government will refrain from signing this so-called treaty, for to do so will only be assessed as a step towards the outright annexation of the occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia, which would incur proper international legal consequences.

We call upon the international organizations and the international community to take special notice of this issue and of Russia's intentions, the fulfilment of which would qualitatively change the situation in the region and would create additional problems for European security.